



Two Senate Brownfields Bills Introduced

4/14/00

Two Senate bills were recently introduced to encourage the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields sites. The first bill, the State and Local Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2000 (S. 2335) would authorize the assistance of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in brownfields remediation at sites owned by local and state governments. The USACE would be allowed to conduct site characterizations, environmental restoration, design and construction, and preparation for redevelopment on these sites. A related Senate bill (S. 2334) was introduced to expand the numbers and types of brownfields that would be eligible for favorable tax treatment of site cleanup costs. This bill would expand the definition of contaminated sites that could take advantage of Section 198 of the Internal Revenue Code to any brownfield site located within a metropolitan statistical area. Section 198 permits the expensing, or deducting, in the year they are incurred of expenses associated with the costs of brownfield assessment and cleanup. The number of brownfields sites in the US currently range as high as 450,000.